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Planning for Our Future: The Rowan Tree Church Annual Report, Hallows 1996-Hallows 1997

Rowan Tree Church

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Planning For Our Future

The Rowan Tree Church Annual Report

Hallows 1996 - Hallows 1997

This past year has been remarkable. We accomplished some historical achievements with a cohesive and calm Board of Directors. Church Members should be proud of the Board's ability to make decisions and to work together despite the vast distances which separate Directors.

Seventeen years ago I was working with an attorney to draw up the papers for our incorporation as a church, a legal entity giving us the same rights and protection as are afforded any legal religious institution. One of the Articles of Incorporation is that we share a collective responsibility to provide a place of worship. At this time, there is no 'formal' place. We do not own a collection of buildings so that you can head down to your neighborhood Temple of Lothloriën. In fact, that type of 'mainstream' membership, requiring many thousands of Members, would be the antithesis of our goals. We do share, however, the goal of someday acquiring a parcel of land near the Mothervalley where we could some day hold our Annual Retreats and accomplish other goals we share within Lothloriën.

This past year the Church has taken a major step toward that goal. Your Church is now a property owner, holding title to an acre of stunning real estate. There will be no building erected on this land. And, although there are two ritual sites now in use, it will not be a major gathering place. Yet this sacred land will provide you with the knowledge that, should you wish your athame or other most sacred tools cared for after the demise of your body, there is a worshipful place kept sacred.

It is a large responsibility for a Church so small to take ownership of a parcel of land. It would be highly prized by developers and we have been offered large sums of money to make it available to bulldozers which would kill the trees and smash the Stone Circle which has been kept sacred for more than ten years. Lothloriën teaches us to care for the land, to protect Mother Earth. In today's world, this means working to protect parcels of land against pavement and traffic, to provide a refuge for the trees and herbs, a place where the devas and eldritch may dance without fear of human encroachment. This year your Church has grown in maturity.

Now we look to the future. It will be necessary to draft policies regarding so it is not lost through neglect, abused through a lack of planning. The policies will be created by The College of Mentors and the Board of Directors, but the wishes and desires of our Members are being taken into consideration. We must be pragmatic and realistic yet we must continue our goals of bringing Lothloriën into manifestation. This past summer the Board of Directors, at their Annual Meeting, developed a new mission statement which is now before our Members. We are also seeking to rewrite our brochures and flyers to reflect our growth and changes and to improve the manner by which we present ourselves to the 'outside world.' The web site developed and maintained by Rev. Ron is a major step forward in the ways by which we communicate about ourselves.

Working to craft these policies is a look toward the future. In this process a new edition of A Wiccan Bardo must be brought into print and we look forward to our next major gathering: cabins have been reserved next to Old Faithful in Yellowstone National Park in the year 2000 ce. Coincidentally, that year will also be the twentieth anniversary of our legal recognition as a Church. There will be much cause for celebration and for sharing. All Members and their partners/families are invited to share one of the most powerful sites in North America, a land where the earth makes visible her workings as maiden and mother, where she is continually creating and stirring and showing the pulse of life from within her.

How much can we grow between now and then? The answer lies within you. The Rowan Tree Church is your Church. The Tradition of Lothloriën is open to all who find beauty within its poetry and familiarity and comfort within its beliefs. Yet underlying the poetry is the 'so below,' the actual daily work it takes to make Lothloriën and your Church available to you. The Annual Report represents many hundreds of hours of volunteer labor. My personal contribution averages twenty or more hours a week and I am but one of those who offers time and labor so that your Church continues to function. This Annual Report is a learning device. It can help you better understand just what is The Rowan Tree Church

Rev. Paul V. Beyerl
Founder and President, Board of Directors

Please read this report. Responsible Membership in The Rowan Tree Church or in any organization means being informed. Although a superficial overview of these pages may seem like boring numbers, the text has been carefully written to help you learn much more about the activities and potentials of your Church. If you have questions, send them to Rev. Paul or to Rev. Ron. We want you to know as much as you are willing to know about your Church because we believe you are our future!

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Annual Report for
The Rowan Tree Church
 Financial Statements 1996-97

How did our Church do this past year? Our fiscal performance was not outstanding. On the surface, we lost \$259.52. In large part this deficit occurred due to some one-time expenses within the last two months of our fiscal year. Here is how the different budgets within the Church fared.

budget	beginning	ending	gain/loss
Annual Retreat	\$55.00	\$47.60	-\$7.40
Mystery School	82.03	-12.35	-94.38
Periodical Library	5.27	42.73	+37.46
Church operating budget	239.00	203.28	-35.72
Subscription Library	171.25	-99.67	-270.92
The Littlest Unicorn	118.52	177.36	+58.84
The Unicorn	33.63	211.02	+177.39

How do we get our money?

A significant part of our money comes from Member donation. Although it is easy to think of your Church's expenses amounting to little more than the cost of your monthly *Rowan Tree News*, it cost the Church nearly \$9,000.00 to do its business in the 1996-97 fiscal year. Were it not for other sources of income, that amount averages approximately \$15.00 per Member per month. The reality is that Member donations averaged approximately \$5.00 per month.

Member donation totals ran from a high of \$314.81 in March to a low of \$110.00 in September (which caused the General Manager to do some panicky juggling).

The money you donate to the Church is tax exempt. Where does that money go? Five cents of every dollar goes into the Land Fund and the other ninety-five cents goes into the Church's operating budget. Many Members donate money and ask that it go into one of the other budgets. The former editor of *The Littlest Unicorn*, for example, donated the cost of printing the newsletter.

There are many sources of income, however. A detailed list follows:

Income	
2000 ce Retreat deposits	40.00
A Wiccan Bardo	331.66
Astral Pursuit	15.00
Autumn Ritual	6.00
Baby Blessing	7.00
Book of Numbers	26.00
1996-97 calendar sales	90.93
Child of Light	21.00
fax donations	83.00
fire-proof storage donations	25.00
Treasurer's fund-raising Letter	355.00
Hallowmas Ritual	13.00
Handfasting Ritual	27.00
herb fund-raiser	14.00
Hermit's Grove book sales	313.06
Lammas Ritual	6.00
Laws/Herbalist	5.00
LB Pentagram Ritual	6.00
library catalog	16.00
Mystery School tuition	2,633.14
Master Book	185.32

Member donation	2,839.01
Member purchase	20.00
Member subscription	184.00
Merry Meet	60.00
miscellaneous donations	2.43
New Holy Books	56.00
nonmember subscriptions	580.00
nonmember donations	166.30
old Holy Books	12.00
Painless Astrology	34.40
Ritual for the Dead	30.00
Ritual of Lothloriën	59.00
sample issues	41.50
sample package	121.50
t-shirt sales	167.00
sales tax collected	57.09
Wheel of the Year	21.00
Wiccan Reader	40.00
Yule Ritual	10.00
Total Income	8,690.34

Where does the money go?

That's a good question. Your Church is managed by a very small number of dedicated volunteers. The bookkeeping is a voluntary position requiring about 200 hours a month plus the expense of driving about 250 miles with bank deposits over the course of a year. Editors put in considerably more time. Each Director on the Board is responsible for studying the month's agenda and writing out comments and recommendations, a copy of which is made and sent to every other Director. We have no paid positions and there are no salaries.

Out of our roughly 50 Members, a core group of nine dedicated volunteers managed to publish the *RTNews*, *The Unicorn* and *The Littlest Unicorn*. Thirteen issues of a publication for Mystery School students and twelve published Agendas for the Board of Directors were mailed out as well. Promotional flyers, brochures and a spectacular web site make us accessible to people outside the Church. Mail continues to arrive at the old post office box in Minneapolis where our Minnesota Agent (who represents us for the State of Minnesota where we are incorporated) drives 45 miles round trip once a month to pick up the mail and mail it to us here in Kirkland. Some months there are more than thirty requests for free information. Over the course of a year we send out promotional literature to an average of 300 people. In addition there are several bulk mailings, Member monthly forms and donations receive written encouragement from the Secretary and our core volunteers send out a wealth of written material. We are, after all, a wide-spread web within Lothloriën and rather than spider silk, we spin paper. In addition to the paper used at the home office in Kirkland (which we buy in cases of ten reams at a time) there is considerable printing expense.

Mystery School	-\$203.50
Periodical Library	-73.50
Church operations	-358.13
Subscription Library	-30.00
The Littlest Unicorn	-95.02
The Unicorn	-176.00
total printing	-\$936.15

Add in the printing of the Annual Report which is mailed to each of you. Postage is also a major expense of our Church.

Annual Retreat	\$-37.40
Mystery School	-362.57
RTNews	-371.57
promotional & business	-510.81
Rowan Tree Members	-174.42
Subscription Library	-121.62
The Littlest Unicorn	-46.07
The Unicorn	-205.99
total postage	-\$1,931.51

There are other expenses as well. The telephone is another of the threads of our communications web. Important Board decisions require the phone line for the fax machine, a cost of nearly \$200.00 per year. The total telephone bill for 1996-97 was \$937.47 which included \$377.39 paid by The Mystery School. Other expenses included such things as the \$492.30 for the rental of a portable toilet (and its weekly servicing) which is essential at The Hermit's Grove. (The other half of that expense is paid for by the Beyerls and the Grove.)

We made a donation of \$12.00 to the Northwest AIDS Foundation in the Church's name. We pay \$20.00 a month to the Minnesota Agent, without which we would have to start from scratch to once again receive our tax-exempt status with the IRS. Using an agent is the standard practice with most non-profit and for-profit organizations paying an attorney fees averaging more than a hundred dollars each month. Not only is ours a bargain, but she drives over 500 miles each year to pick up our mail and pays for shipping it here out of her modest stipend.

The Church also rents a storage locker where records, archives and other materials are stored. This costs \$40.00 each month. A more recent (but now permanent expense) is the approximately \$20.00 per month for the web site. Here are our expenses in detail:

Expenses	
advertising	-104.00
promotional & Board postage	-510.81
promotional & Board printing	-303.23
book purchases for library and sales	-1,279.67
charitable donation	-12.00
dues, subscriptions	-100.95
equipment repair	-70.00
equipment purchase	-180.00
fax machine	-102.58
royalties and Mentor stipends	-838.85
Money due Hermit's Grove	-3.50
legal expenses	-335.00
Minnesota agent	-200.00
misc. printing	-275.08
misc. purchase	-12.95
office supplies	-474.11
postal expense	-1,049.13
printing costs	-428.42
purchase shirts	-150.00
RTNews postage	-371.57
RTNews printing	-204.50
storage locker rent	-480.00
tax paid to State	-10.79
telephone exp.	-937.47
toilet rental	-492.30
transferred to Land Fund acct	71.19
travel costs	-56.00
web site fees	-68.14
Total Expenses	-8,979.86

Who makes the decisions to fund these projects? Who commits us to the monthly expenses of the portable toilet? The extra phone line for the fax machine? Who decided that we should pay for the fax machine? And who decided that your money will fund the fees for a web site? Why, the Board of Directors does. You voted for the Board and hopefully you read the news of Board activities in the *RTNews*. Despite our occasional requests for Member involvement, we assume you are happy with the way we make decisions and spend your money, because we get no letters of complaint (nor of encouragement) and no one has asked to join the Board as an observer in order to watch us more closely. Who are the current Directors?

Vice President, Board of Directors

This past year there was much on the plate of the Board of Directors. And, rather than reporting our actual accomplishments (which have appeared regularly in the *RTNews*) I would like to comment on the present functioning of the Board.

I have been involved with the BOD now for somewhere in the area of 4 to 5 years if memory serves, and I cannot think of a time when we have functioned so well as a group. Given that for each of us life can and sometimes does get the better half of our attention, we have nonetheless made a great deal of change and forward growth. We are coming into a time of maturity for our Church and our Tradition. Within the Mystery School, we can often times clearly see areas that need to be refined; now this is becoming a reality for our Membership and all around us we can see growth. Obviously changes within the Mystery School are brought about by the College of Mentors, but within the greater Circles of the Church change is brought about by the Board of Directors. For some time now the Board has been looking to the Church's Membership for their comments and concerns about all of the events that do require discussion. Issues concerning the use of the land in Kirkland to redesigning the Welcome Packet Materials are all critical issues for the regular functioning of our Church. As the Board looks to you, the Membership of the Rowan Tree Church, know that we need to make these changes with you, in order that changes we make serve our Membership as best we are able. I invite all of you be a part of this process as we continue to care for and nourish the Rowan Tree - together.

Brightest Blessings,
Rev. Ron Weroski

Secretary, Board of Directors

Greetings to you all. This has been an enjoyable year for me as your Membership Secretary. Although we have had several people join and then "unjoin" the Church, the majority of Members have continued their Memberships during the past year, feeling that they are benefitting from this journey we are making together.

i have enjoyed receiving your monthly forms and donations, and responding to letters and notes. Sometimes, you have noticed that i have sent Rev. Ron parts of these notes to be used in the *RTNews*. i have also started to respond to donations sent without a monthly form, since these Members deserve our

thanks, too.

i report to the Board of Directors each month on the number of Members on the roster, the number of new Members and the number of Members dropped from the Church roll during the past month. In addition, i have started to keep track of the number of forms sent each month, reporting through the RTNews to the Membership.

i continue to be the "pesky Secretary" when i have not received a monthly form for two or three months, sending out a reminder to encourage that the form be sent. i feel this has helped people be more aware of time passing and my need to hear about their desire to remain with the Church.

i maintain a current Membership list, noting the date of receipt of each form and donation, in case someone wants a copy for their tax records or in case we should need such documentation for the government. i send copies of the current Membership list to the RTNews Editor for his monthly "Where are we?" column and to the Tape Librarian so that she is able to know who is eligible to use the tape library. i am also responsible for keeping an up-dated Membership list in the main office of the Church in Kirkland.

Working with the Scribe of the Church, i helped in the voting on amending the Book of Legislation last Spring and on the voting for the Board of Directors this fall.

If there are any ways in which i may serve you, PLEASE let me know. i look forward to the coming year. i also look forward to the Yellowstone Retreat in the year 2000. i hope to meet many of you there!

Blessed Be, gerry B.

Treasurer, Board of Directors

This past year has been a year of learning for me. Last year at this time, I had just assumed the duties of treasurer for the Rowan Tree. Now, after a year, I am feeling that I know a little more about the finances and bookkeeping of the Church. Through regular communication with Rev. Paul, I am continuing to learn how resources are allocated and what needs to be done to keep the Church running from a business point of view. I have completed quarterly audits with the help of the Scribe, examining the books and making sure that the numbers are what they should be. This has been a new experience for someone that always thought they weren't that great in math and certainly didn't study accounting!

I have also written treasurer's reports for the RTNews, trying to keep all members informed about the financial situation of the Church. Since the Rowan Tree is it's Members, I believe that it is important for all of us to understand what the fiscal circumstances of the Church are. This news isn't always cheery, but it is important to the Church's continued existence. It was gratifying to see how Members rose to the occasion and donated enough money to keep the Church solvent when finances were tight at the beginning of the year.

Overall, I have enjoyed serving as treasurer. I look forward to another year filled with learning, getting to know more about the business side of the Rowan Tree, and writing to all of you.

Bright Blessings, Donna Lewin

Scribe, Board of Directors

Having held the position of Scribe for a few years now, I can honestly say that the job is varied in its duties. They include counting ballots for all Board elections and other voting procedures, reporting vote tallies to the Secretary and the RTNews editor, and assisting our Treasurer with the quarterly audits. However, the main duty of the Scribe is to write a report of each Board meeting for publication in the RTNews. The most challenging duty of the Scribe is to keep the "Notes from the Board" interesting enough for the general Membership.

I have enjoyed my time on the Board considerably. It has been a tremendous learning experience concerning the more mundane aspects of Church business and a great source of understanding how and why some things are done. I look forward to this term of office with great anticipation.

Blessings, Tricia Youngquist

Director, Board of Directors

In the last year, I have significantly improved my Board "attendance." This, in large part, was due to assistance from the Board's Treasurer, who often helped me make sure my responses were in. I am grateful for the help.

Probably the biggest issue of the year for the Board has been the Land Transfer. That is closer to resolution than it has ever been, and I feel confident that the Board's work in late July resulted in sound recommendations. I feel good about my participation in this discussion. Certainly, it was much easier to discuss things and make decisions when most of us could meet together. To be sure, our discussion brought up at least as many questions as it resolved. But I think there was real progress here.

Unofficially, I have done a little promotional writing for some of the fund-raising items offered by the Church in recent months. Now that fund-raising is once again a responsibility of the Board, I intend to continue those efforts. I like doing this work in an unofficial capacity.

All in all, I would say that this year's Board has worked together quite well. It has been an honor to serve with them.

Dawn Heather Simmons



Other Ministries

Report from the Head-horn of the Galadhrim Society of Unicorns

Greetings to each of you! This has been a year of change for the Galadhrim. While we have added two new 'hatchlings' to our herd of workers, we have also said good-bye. We are currently evaluating the purpose of our Society and its actual functioning. Haldir, who for several years has admirably kept the herd moving in the right directions, has decided to "pass the reins" so to speak to someone else. Actually, the herd prevailed upon him to stay one extra year, which he did. This year, however, he set his hooves and said change was needed.

So, i have taken the roll of cheer-leader, encourager, prodder and coordinator of this multi-talented and multi-faceted group. The projects for which we are responsible include the

Lay-Ministry program, the Prisoner Outreach Program, the Fundraising Committee and the important monthly Healing Ritual performed to the text of the Child of Light. Reports from the different coordinators of these programs will be included in this Annual Report.

One item which has been taken "out of our manger," so to speak, is the Annual Retreat. This activity is now under the guidance of the College of Mentors of the Mystery School and the Board of Directors of the Church. We are hoping that this will make input more encouraged from the Membership and spread the responsibilities for this annual event more evenly, instead of having one person responsible for it.

Since we are a Society of Service, please let us know if there is something which we may do for you! We have appreciated the requests for remembrance at the Healing Ritual. It helps us to have more focus and feel more responsible while working the ritual. We hope to hear from you!

Blessings, *felaróf*

Prisoner Outreach Program

In the Prisoner Outreach Program, we have now reached our full capacity of 10 prisoner members. An additional six are on the waiting list. In light of events in a Texas facility where we have prisoner membership, the POP and Lay Ministry programs met at Kirkland to discuss a small but important addition to the prisoner member guidelines. Also, I have instituted a plan to increase the level of service to active and waitlisted POP members. This plan consists of doing a form letter to each of them a minimum of once a quarter. It is hoped that this will help the prisoner members feel more a part of what's going on in the Church.

Dawn Heather Simmons

Lay-ministry Report, 1996-1997

Greetings to you all! This has been an active year for the Lay-Ministry program. During the past year, three new Lay-ministers passed their adjudication and received certification to represent the Rowan Tree Church. Receiving certification were Tricia Youngquist (Moline, IL), Jim Saigle (Petawawa, Ontario), and Frank Cordeiro (Port Hueneme, CA). We look forward to hearing from them in the RTNews concerning their ministry, hearing tapes of their Sunday Circles and working with them to encourage and educate Members in the beliefs and history of the Tradition of Lothloriën.

Several other people made inquiries about this program of the Church. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a Lay-minister, please let me know at the Kirkland office. It does take some study, some communication, some work, some time. But, any of those who have been certified would be available to assist you also.

Blessed Be, *felaróf*, Lay-ministry Coordinator

Fund Raising Committee Annual Report

The fund raising committee of the Rowan Tree Church has been an informal coordination of efforts through discussions at the Board of Directors meetings. While this may not be the preferred format, successful initiatives have been undertaken

this year.

In fact, all activities to materialize the Church are related to fund raising - Rev. Paul's writing, gerry's monthly communication with Members, the work of the Editors of the Rowan Tree News, The Littlest Unicorn, The Unicorn, the Prisoner Outreach Program, the library and tape library, the Child of Light Healing Circle, group and solitary workings... (and anyone I've forgotten to mention) All of these activities help to maintain the value of interest in the Church and the level of monthly donations.

Services and products are also sources of revenue. Re. Paul donates royalties from his books to the Church, sales of Sabbat and other ritual texts flow to the bank account, as well as "in memoriam" donations. Lay Minister Frank Cordeiro successfully designed and produced our ritual calendar which featured the artwork of Dianne Lorden. (Keep your copy. This one will be a collector's item.) Ritual herbe packets were offered to the Membership. The herbes were bought in bulk from the Hermit's Grove and packaged in individual use portions for the Wheel of the Year celebrations. These herbe collections will be available until the end of 1997.

Rowan Tree logo T-shirts were well received. The new colors of burgundy and teal received compliments. Although we ordered some of all the sizes offered by the printer, we did have requests for an extended size range in the future. Thanks for the feedback.

I want to thank all of you for your support. This is one of the ways we manifest our fantasies into reality.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Saigle, Lay Minister

Fundraising generated \$746.93 during the past fiscal year. We extend thanks to Jim Saigle who worked on the t-shirt and other projects; to Lizard Frank who provided the calendars; and to Donna Lewin who worked to raise funds in her capacity as Treasurer.

calendar sales	\$90.93
fax donations	83.00
fire-proof storage donations	25.00
t-shirt sales	167.00
Treasurer's letter	355.00
misc.	26.00
total	\$746.93

And where did this money go? Most of it (\$624.93) went to help the Church pay its bills through the general budget. \$95.00 of the t-shirt money went to make new t-shirts. We still have terrific color and size selection. The remaining \$27.00 went to The Mystery School, Land Fund, Library, etc.

Periodicals

The Unicorn

With the Hallows issue, *The Unicorn* is in a year long celebration of its twentieth anniversary. As part of this observance, a contest was run with free subscriptions and actual cash prizes (although very modest!). Voting on the best short story, poem or artwork are the subscribers, using an 'Olympic' type scale ranging to 10.0. For years we've had a stable

subscriber base and the number of paid subscribers is exactly the same as last year. For each non-renewal we have a new subscriber.

With an abundance of fiction, articles, letters, poetry and artwork, *The Unicorn* is a showcase for the creative talent within our Church. Andrius' opening letter and the ongoing tales of "The Hatchling" keep the modern myths of Lothloriën alive. Significant events within the Church are echoed in the saga of Dark Star and her two hermits, Arnica and Holly. When two Directors came to The Hermit's Grove from Denver this past summer, threads were woven into the story of "The Hatchling." *The Unicorn* is a reflection of The Rowan Tree Church and of Lothloriën, although the casual reader who is not a Member would never notice.

How did *The Unicorn* begin? Initially, Rev. Paul wanted to start up a mail order herbal service. It was named *The Unicorn*, in honor of a glass unicorn he received from a friend having told the friend of the unicorn in "The Glass Menagerie," a play by Tennessee Williams. The first "issue" of *The Unicorn* was a price list of herbs with a couple of paragraphs. This was followed three months later by a fairly chatty mailing which was soon called a "newsletter" by a couple of the very few other publications/groups in existence: Circle Farm (as it was then known) in Wisconsin and Castle Rising (now defunct) in Colorado. That word brought into manifestation one of Rev. Paul's dreams which had been around since he was in the second grade, asking for a "printing press" which had been advertised. A childhood dream was to publish some type of neighborhood newspaper. The kit turned out to be a woodblock with small, unwieldy rubber letters and a pair of tweezers. But *The Unicorn* turned out to be the only publication in North America which is still going twenty years later. One or two have older roots but were interrupted. *Green Egg* spent many years out of publication.

Where did Andrius come from? Originally a literary device, Andrius was chatty, known to be fond of chocolate chip cookies and maidens, and a source of light-hearted humor combined with a knowledge of the Mysteries. Although initially a creation of Rev. Paul, Andrius began taking on a life of his own through the faith and belief of the readers. There are many stories which demonstrate Andrius' reality as an astral unicorn. One of our favorites is when a young girl, Michelle Weed daughter of a then staff artist, was taken seriously ill. A long distance call from a panicked mother told Rev. Paul that the doctors were uncertain if Michelle would survive the next couple of days. I knew that Michelle adored Andrius and to her young wonderment, he was as real as anything. Karen, her mother, wanted Rev. Paul to perform a healing ritual. Instead, knowing Michelle's affinity for Andrius, Rev. Paul recommended that Karen tell Michelle to "dream of Andrius" that night. Michelle did dream of Andrius and had a near-miraculous recovery, sent home from the hospital in less than two days.

The Unicorn is one of the most visible aspects of our Church to the rest of the pagan world and has its own budget. At one time a major player among pagan newsletters, the current trend toward slick pagan magazines and newspaper formats has left *The Unicorn* as a role model for the newsletter format having its own niche.

Your goal, as Church Members, should be to give serious

thought to *The Unicorn's* future. After twenty years with Rev. Paul it's doubtful that he'll be editing it for another twenty. It's time to begin thinking about developing the plan and training so that *The Unicorn* can survive its founder. Would you want it to continue publication after its editor is no longer available? With our Membership scattered over such a distance, a contingency plan is not easily derived and your thoughts and creative solutions would be useful.

income:	
beginning balance	33.63
donations	12.43
Member subscriptions	159.00
nonmember subscriptions	495.00
sample issues	33.50
sample package allocation	18.75
total income:	\$762.31
expenses:	
advertising	-86.00
office supplies	-62.17
postal expense	-205.99
printing	-176.00
records storage	-10.00
telephone	-11.13
total expense:	-\$551.29
closing balance:	\$211.02

The Littlest Unicorn

It is with regrets that we announce the resignation of this past year's editor, Cris Bear. This was Cris' second time in the role of editor and each time she has provided *The Littlest Unicorn* with a joyful appearance, providing most of the artwork and articles. We all extend to Cris our most sincere appreciation. The work of an editor rarely brings the laborer any appreciation but Cris, please know that we love the heck out of you!

Over the years, *The Littlest Unicorn* has seen a large number of editors - more editors than the number of years in publication! We are pleased to announce that Jim Saigle, Lay Minister and a member of the Board of Directors has been accepted for this position. Jim has raised two lovely daughters, one of whom has contributed artwork to various Church publications.

Although many of our Church Members have children, *TLU* has not been successful in creating the level of Church interest and involvement which is found for *The Unicorn*. As President of the Board, I would like to ask you to please consider a subscription and consider writing an occasional letter.

income:	
beginning balance	118.52
Member donations	70.54
Member subscriptions	25.00
nonmember subscriptions	85.00
sample issues	8.00
sample package allocation	18.75
total income	325.81
expenses:	
office supplies	-1.98
postal expense	-46.07
printing	-95.02
telephone	-5.38
total expenses	-\$148.45
closing balance	\$177.36

The Rowan Tree News

I have been at the helm of the RTNews now as editor for just over one cycle. In that time, I have been focusing on steering the RTNews into a forum of interest and discussion, particularly rooted in Lothloriën and her Members. This has been a real learning experience for me in many ways. Between editing the RTNews and working on the programming for the Web-Pages, I have certainly become far more computer literate than I had expected, but it does benefit our Church and so I am pleased to be able to serve in this area.

Quite frankly, the RTNews has been completely revamped and has seen a surge of life blood as more of our Members feel free to write letters, articles and so forth. This is most wonderful. The RTNews is an important publication within the Rowan Tree Church as it is the one publication that all Church Members receive. It is also important to see that the Newsletter belongs to you, the Church Membership. This is your publication, and as such I would encourage each of you to use it.

As I begin to assemble each month's issue, I look forward to coming in my office and connecting with each of you as best I can. It has become a time I look forward to, and I hope it has become the same for all of you.

Brightest Blessings, Rev. Ron Weroski

I would like to add that a great amount of the letters which you read in *The RTNews* are there through the work done by gerry Beyerl, who types up passages from letters he receives as Secretary and then sends them by fax to Rev. Ron who retypes them into each issue. Some time during the coming year, please give each some thanks.

Funding for *The Rowan Tree News* comes directly from the general budget which is supported in part by Member donation.

expenses:	
postage	-371.57
printing	-204.50
total expenses:	-\$576.07



The Mystery School of Lothloriën

Eldermentor

This past year Lothloriën celebrated the Initiation of two new Priests. As we begin our new year, two Church Members have been accepted into The Mystery School of The Rowan Tree Church. With the Dedication of a Novice we know as Dreamweaver, we now have openings for new Novice Supplicants.

The Mystery School now functions with a majority of those within it as Initiates. This offers us a depth to our work and the ability to utilize the Magick which embodies Lothloriën. There have been no significant changes in the Pathworking. Rather, we who are within the Inner Circle of The Mystery School have grown in our collective understanding of our goals. This past year we studied together the working of The Ritual for the Dead, enhancing our own understanding of the Mysteries of Death and Dying which are integral to our daily ministry to our Members and communities. Our goals for the coming year include furthering our abilities to work together, to

build the energy available through the astral temples and to prepare ourselves for the future of Lothloriën.

The Mystery School expenses are covered by tuition and through the publishing program which includes the spiral-bound ritual books, and the purchase of other books sold through the Library. Out of all tuition, 5% is allocated to the Land Fund, 25% to the Subscription Library, 45% covers Mystery School operating expenses and the Mentor receives 25% to cover a small portion of her/his expenses.

If you have any questions about or interest in The Mystery School, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am more than willing to help you prepare yourself for admission to our training. It is, in many ways, like studying at home for a college degree.

Your servant,

Rev. Paul V. Beyerl, Founder of The Tradition of Lothloriën

tuition collected	\$2,633.14
tuition allocation:	
Land Fund donation	136.74
Subscription Library	668.75
Mystery School expenses	1,204.65
Mentors	623.00

Completed Mystery School Budget

Income:	
Astral Pursuit	9.00
Autumn Ritual	4.00
Baby Blessing	5.00
beginning balance	82.03
Book of Numbers	18.00
Calendar fundraising	6.00
Child of Light	16.00
Hallowmas Ritual	8.00
Handfasting Ritual	17.00
Hermit's Grove books	9.00
Lammas Ritual	4.00
LB Pentagram Ritual	4.00
M.S. tuition	1,204.65
Member donation	12.00
Member purchase	6.00
nonmember donation	25.00
Ritual for the Dead	21.00
Ritual of Lothloriën	41.00
Wheel of the Year	14.00
Wiccan Reader	10.00
Yule Ritual	6.50
Total Income	\$1,522.18
Expenses:	
BOD printing	-104.60
book purchases	-179.05
equipment	-60.40
misc. printing	-41.00
office supplies	-124.09
postal expense	-362.57
printing costs	-98.90
storage locker rent	-50.00
telephone expense	-377.39
toilet rental	-108.53
travel costs	-28.00
Total Expenses	-\$1,534.53
End of year balance	-\$12.35

Please note: this final negative balance includes \$187.50 in past due tuition plus \$150.00 in unpaid tuition from former students no longer with us.

The Bardmaster

For the most part, what I have to say has to do with my own work towards finishing the Bardic Aspect. I had hoped last year to finish everything for Second Degree/Third Ordeal by this time. In actuality, I finished far sooner, giving the Lothlorien aspect to the College of Mentors and a full generic version to all Board Members. This happened fairly early in 1997, and I still would be grateful for any thoughts or comments from Board Members.

So, I am ahead of my own expectations, being well under way with the Third Degree/Fourth Ordeal. I trust to have this finished about this time next year. I have written many accompanying essays to further explain various aspects of this work which have now begun to appear in the RTNews. I would like to find myself in the position of finishing the Third Degree even sooner so that I may truly spend time examining the beginning (First Ordeal) again. Much has changed and the First no longer totally reflects those changes.

I have been teaching generic students with the intent that they would show me how well my system works. I am pleased to say that not only have they done well, but they have given a wealth of information that shall lead to the needed changes for the Tradition. They have speeded me up and prompted the outflow of essays. I am hopeful that these discoveries shall be positively reflected in how Lothlorien students may be taught. Though I do currently have a Bardic Student, these issues have been difficult to gauge and work on as many questions have required the closer physical connections to resolve. Hopefully, as I said, these aspects will filter over without difficulties. I would like to see all systems work well. One has to understand that it was an important question to me to make certain the system truly works. The Initiation aspect for Bards is powerful and bonding. But at present, it is generic. I want for this to become a Lothlorien experience as well.

With many hopes that this gives a reasonable idea of where the process is,

Thomas Berkham, Bardmaster

The Mystery School includes not only the educational program, but other functions within the Church as well. The libraries are assets of The Mystery School and through the library, copies of books written by the founder, Rev. Paul, are sold as well as texts available for purchase by students at The Hermit's Grove.

Several years ago an ambitious publishing program was undertaken by The Mystery School. The printing and spiral binding of rituals and educational books by The Mystery School provide additional income for our work. To give you an idea of the scope of the publishing program, here are the financial figures for the past fiscal year.

income:	
<u>A Wiccan Bardo</u>	331.66
spiral-bound books	252.00
Hermit's Grove shop sales	313.06
Holy Books	68.00
<u>The Master Book of Herbalism</u>	185.32
<u>Painless Astrology</u>	34.40
<u>A Wiccan Reader</u>	40.00
income in this report:	\$1,224.44

In addition to the cost of publishing the spiral bound books (printing), office supplies (paper, binding materials and equipment) are expenses from The Mystery School's operating budget. The price of each book includes a modest royalty to the author and money automatically allocated to the Land Fund. This past year the donation to the Land Fund was \$59.00 Total royalties paid this past year were \$172.00.

The remaining money goes directly into The Mystery School (from spiral-bound books) and The Subscription Library (from works published outside the Church). Monies which were allocated to The Mystery School are indicated in the complete Mystery School budget.

The Land Fund

Yes, the Church now has some 'land,' but it is not a parcel of property adequate for holding Annual Retreats or other larger functions. One of our original goals which remains part of our incorporated structure is that some day we are to acquire a parcel of land within an hours' drive from the Mississippi, which is known in Lothlorien as the Mothervalley.

For fifteen years we have set aside money for the Land Fund. We sell copies of The Holy Books of the Devas - the original paper edition, although Member interest in this fund-raising option needs renewal. 5% of all tuition paid to The Mystery School by students goes directly to the Land Fund. A secondary source of income is derived from the spiral-bound books published by The Mystery School, those books of ritual and magick which enable Members to learn more about The Tradition of Lothlorien.

In addition sales tax money is kept in the Land Fund, a money market account, somewhat as escrow money to help increase the amount of earned interest in a small way. The same is done with ten dollars from every t-shirt sold so that new shirts can be purchased.

Unfortunately, over the years the Land Fund has been tapped when the need arises, financing the shipping of the Subscription Library from Minnesota to Washington, for example. Today the Board of Directors works hard to avoid using any of this money. An expense of \$250.00 was incurred for the appraisal of the acre of land acquired as a gift from the Beyerls. The Board approved this expenditure as owning a parcel of desirable real estate will, some day, make it much easier for the Church to acquire its Mothervalley parcel.

Last year the balance in the land fund account was \$1850.47. To this we added nearly \$60.00 in interest. When combined with money from The Mystery School (\$136.74 from tuition and \$71.00 from book sales) and with the modest \$32.23 from Members; and expenses of \$250.00 for the appraisal, \$75.00 in attorney fees to draw up the new will, the balance in the money market account is now \$1,861.44 which includes a small sum of sales tax money due the State of Washington at the end of 1997.

This year the Land Fund had significant expense, but was part of the process by which your Church became the holder of a wonderful parcel of sacred land.



Librarian, Subscription Library

This has been a quiet year for the Subscription Library. Through purchases funded by The Mystery School and money generated by the sale of books and through donations of books from our Members, from The Hermit's Grove and from *The Unicorn*, ninety-eight new and used books were added to the library. A catalog of titles and authors was published at the beginning of this year and is available for those Members who wish to purchase a copy. If you would like a copy, a special offer is one for \$5.00 to cover printing and postage (it's many pages long!).

The library includes not only the outstanding collection of books available to Members, but also the tape library which offers a collection of educational tapes and tapes which allow Members to further their education in our Tradition of Lothlorien and in Wicca. The least known facet of the library is the Periodical Library, which is the storage of twenty years of modern pagan history chronicled in publications gathered through exchange programs and by subscription. Due to their fragile condition they are not available for study but one of the Board's dreams is that some day this resource might be preserved either on microfiche or on CD Rom. The Periodical Library began the year with only \$5.27 in its budget but in addition to its usual sources of revenue, the generosity of two Members has helped it finish the year with a more healthy figure. Expenses for the Periodical Library include printing and postage for those copies of *The Unicorn* which are exchanged for the periodicals added to our collection.

Rev. Paul V. Beyerl

As we close this year, the following is our inventory of books:

classification	# titles	duplicates	total
Botany and Gardening	70	11	81
Children's Books	60	04	64
Counselling and Wellness	69	02	71
Death and Dying	14	01	15
Fiction	295	86	381
Health and Wellness	105	10	115
Herbals	98	16	114
Miscellaneous	15	00	15
Occult Sciences: Astrology	89	16	105
Occult Sciences: Color	06	00	06
Occ. Sci: Divination & Misc.	28	00	28
Occult Sciences: Dreams	08	01	09
Occ. Sci: Gems, Minerals	33	04	37
Occult Sciences: I Ching	08	01	09
Occ. Sciences: Miscellaneous	58	04	62
Occ. Sciences: Numerology	09	01	10
Occ. Sci: Occult Herbalism	22	07	29
Occ. Sci: Spell Magick	25	12	37
Occult Sciences: Tarot	27	11	38
Philosophy & World View	77	10	87
Poetry & Literature	50	06	56
Religion & Mythology	324	60	384
Sexuality	41	05	46
Spiritual Awakening	108	14	122
Unicorns	14	03	17
Western Occult & Magick	147	46	193
Wicca, Neopaganism	169	96	265
	1969		2396
Income:			
A Wiccan Bardo sales			268.16
Hermit's Grove shop sales			304.06

library catalogs	16.00
Mystery School tuition	668.75
Master Book of Herbalism sales	144.82
Member donations	189.02
other books by Beyerl	101.90
sample package allocation	18.00
misc. income	16.00
total income	\$1726.71

The total expenses include the expense of \$278.39 to obtain as many of the last copies of *A Wiccan Bardo* before it goes permanently out of print. In addition to nearly 40 copies of *A Wiccan Bardo* and six copies of *The Master Book of Herbalism*, the library also has approximately \$300.00 in inventory in books for sale at The Hermit's Grove.

Expense:	
book purchases	-1,100.62
equipment	-90.00
office supplies	-62.20
periodical purchases	-70.95
postal expense	-222.68
printing	-337.58
storage rent	-35.00
telephone expense	-41.14
total expense	-\$1,960.17
balance for year	-\$233.46

Periodical Library

Although not a burden of any kind, the Periodical Library has been - and still is - an on-going project. There is organizing yet to be done as I tend to do and re-do in an effort to be truly done when I am finished - except for occasional additions. The room it is going into is often a "catch-all" for things needing a temporary spot during heavy cleaning or redecorating. I have to work with more than I can do in the available time. I also get side-tracked by an interesting article or two as I work. Over the next few weeks, I hope to enlist the help of my daughter whose organizational skills are far superior to mine. It must be a carry-over from a previous life! New Year's Day is my goal for completion.

Blessings, Tricia Youngquist, Periodical Librarian

Income:	
Member donations	\$154.02
sample package allocation	18.00
misc. monies	15.27
Subscription library grant	30.00
total income:	217.29
Expenses:	
printing	-73.50
postage	-101.06
total expense:	-174.56
balance:	\$42.73

Tape Library

One of the biggest advantages of being Tape Librarian is the access to the Tape Library. I have also enjoyed contact with fellow Church Members that I might not have developed otherwise. What contact I do have also leads to significant frustration, however, since so few people take advantage of the resources in the Tape Library. I would hope to generate more interest in the Tape Library over the next year. It is disappointing to see this great resource so little used.

Blessings, Tricia Youngquist, Tape Librarian

Lothloriën's
Calendar & Wheel of the Year

November

1 November, 1997 ce
The beginning of our religious year

13 November, 1997 ce
Full Lovage Moon
22° Taurus 15'
actual event: 8:12 a.m. CST, 14 November
The Ritual of Lothloriën

29 November, 1997 ce
New Sage Moon
7° Sagittarius 54'
actual event: 8:14 p.m. CST
The Ritual of Lothloriën

December

13 December, 1997 ce
Full Elfwort Moon
22° Gemini 08'
actual event: 6:37 p.m. PST
The Ritual of Lothloriën

20 December, 1997 ce
Yule Eve Celebration
"How the Little Unicorn Saw the Birth of the Sun
Child"
Sun enters Capricorn: 2:07 p.m., 21 December

29 December, 1997 ce
New Comfrey Moon
8° Capricorn 01'
actual event 9:57 a.m. MST
The Ritual of Lothloriën

January

11 January 1998 ce
Full Hyssops Moon
22° Cancer 18'
actual event: 12:24 p.m. EST, 12 January
The Ritual of Lothloriën

28 January 1998 ce
New Star Anise Moon
actual event: 1:01 a.m. EST
The Ritual of Lothloriën

February

1 February 1998 ce
Candlemas Eve
The Ritual of Lothloriën with "A Candlemas Journey"

10 February 1998 ce
Full Angelica Moon
22° Leo 29'
actual event: 2:23 a.m. PST
The Ritual of Lothloriën

26 February 1998 ce
New Willow Moon
7° Pisces 55'
actual event: 10:26 p.m. MST
The Ritual of Lothloriën

March

12 March 1998 ce
Full Lavender Moon
22° Virgo 24'
actual event: 8:34 p.m. PST
The Ritual of Lothloriën

19 March 1998 ce
Eostara Eve
The Ritual of Lothloriën with "An Eostara Journey"
Sun enters Aries 2:55 p.m. MST, 20 March

28 March 1998 ce
New Blessed Thistle Moon
7° Aries 15'
actual event: 10:14 p.m. EST, 27 March
The Ritual of Lothloriën
[Ritual work the 27th on the west coast]

April

5 April 1998 ce
Daylight Savings Time begins in the U.S.

11 April 1998 ce
Full Verbena Moon
21° Libra 49'
actual event: 5:24 p.m. CDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën

26 April 1998 ce
New Lovage Moon
6° Taurus 03'
actual event: 7:41 a.m. EDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën

30 April 1998 ce
Beltane Eve
The Ritual of Lothloriën with "A Beltane Journey"

May

10 May 1998 ce
Full Basil Moon
20° Scorpio 42'
actual event: 7:29 a.m. PDT, 11 May
The Ritual of Lothloriën

25 May 1998 ce
New Elfwort Moon
4° Gemini 23'
actual event: 3:32 p.m. EDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën

June

9 June 1998 ce
Full Sage Moon
19° Sagittarius 06'
actual event: 9:18 p.m. PDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën

20 June 1998 ce
Midsummer Eve
The Deva Ritual of Lothloriën
Sun enters Cancer: 7:03 a.m. PDT, 21 June

24 June 1998 ce
New Hyssops Moon
2° Cancer 27'
actual event: 11:50 p.m. EDT, 23 June
The Ritual of Lothloriën

July

8 July 1998 ce
Full Comfrey Moon
17° Capricorn 15'
actual event: 1:01 p.m. EDT, 9 July
The Ritual of Lothloriën

23 July 1998 ce
New Angelica Moon
0° Leo 31'
actual event: 7:44 a.m. MDT

31 July 1998 ce
Lammas Eve
The Lammas Ritual of Lothloriën by Rev. Ron

August

7 August 1998 ce
Full Star Anise Moon
15° Aquarius 21'
actual event: 7:10 p.m. PDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën with the Reading of the
Names

22 August 1998 ce
New Blue Angelica Moon
28° Leo 48'
actual event: 8:03 p.m. MDT, 21 August
The Ritual of Lothloriën

September

5 September 1998 ce
Full Willow Moon
13° Pisces 40'
actual event: 4:21 a.m. PDT, 6 September
The Ritual of Lothloriën

20 September 1998 ce
New Lavender Moon
27° Virgo 32'
actual event: 12:02 p.m. CDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën

22 September 1998 ce
Autumn Eve
Ritual for Fall of Lothloriën by gerry Beyerl
Sun enters Libra 12:37 a.m. CDT the 23rd

October

5 October 1998 ce
Full Blessed Thistle Moon
12° Aries 23'
actual event: 3:12 p.m. CDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën

20 October 1998 ce
New Verbena Moon
26° Libra 49'
actual event: 4:09 a.m. MDT

25 October 1998 ce
End daylight savings time in the U.S.

31 October 1998 ce
Hallows Eve
The Hallows Ritual of Lothloriën

November

3 November 1998 ce
Full Lovage Moon
11° Taurus 35'
actual event: 12:18 a.m. EST, 4 November
The Ritual of Lothloriën

19 November 1998 ce
New Basil Moon
26° Scorpio 38'
actual event: 10:27 p.m. CST, 18 November
The Ritual of Lothloriën

* Rituals are commonly scheduled to begin at 7:30p.m. but times may vary for local Communities in order to coincide with the actual event or for the convenience of those attending. In general, if you cannot work at the Full Moon, work prior to the actual event while the energy is still waxing. If you cannot work at the New Moon, work following the actual event.